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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/666,146	09/20/00	RIETHMULLER-WINZEN	H PM 268411

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EXAMINER

HUI, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED:

04/05/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/666,146

Applicant(s)

RIETHMULLER-WINZEN ET AL.

Examiner

San-ming Hui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-13, drawn to a method of therapeutic management of extrauterine proliferation of endometrial tissue, chronic pelvic pain and/or fallopian tube obstruction (FTO), classified in class 514, subclass 343 and 428.
- II. Claims 14-27, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition for treating extrauterine proliferation of endometrial tissue, chronic pelvic pain and/or fallopian tube obstruction (FTO), classified in class 514, subclass 343, 428, 568, 184, 265, 165, 170, 177, and 178.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Group II and I are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the pharmaceutical composition can be used in a materially different process of using that product such as prevention of premature ovulation in patients undergoing a controlled ovarian stimulation for assisted reproductive technologies (ART).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Election of Species

Claims 1-27 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising:

A) a LHRH antagonist, for example cetorelix, classified in class 514, subclass 343; teverelix, classified in class 514, subclass 343; granirelix, , classified in class 514, subclass 343; and D-63153, , classified in class 514, subclass 428;

B) a contraceptive, for example Yermonil[®], classified in class 514, subclass 170; Ethinyl estradiol, classified in class 514, subclass 177;

C) a non-steroidal anti-rheumatoid agent, for example ibuprofen, classified in class 514, subclass 568; diclofenac, classified in class 514, subclass 561; indomethacin, classified in class 514, subclass 420; and

D) an androgen other than a 17-alpha-alkyl substituted testosterone for example danazol, classified in class 514, subclass 176.

Due to the structural dissimilarities of active compounds, LHRH antagonist, oral contraceptives, non-steroidal anti-rheumatoid agent, and an androgen other than a 17-alpha-alkyl substituted testosterone, encompassed by the claims, the search for all species of each presents an undue burden on the office.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed agent or combination of agents from A) a LHRH antagonist, B) a contraceptive, C) a non-

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steroidal anti-rheumatoid agent, and D) an androgen other than a 17-alpha-alkyl substituted testosterone as specie herein, even though this requirement is traversed. In addition, if the invention of Group I is elected, the gynecological disorders recited in claims 1-13 are a generic representation of a multiple patentably distinct species such as for example, extrauterine proliferation of endometrial tissue, chronic pelvic pain and/or fallopian tube obstruction (FTO). Applicant is required to elect a single disorder.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Because the above restriction/election requirement is complex, a telephone call to applicant's agent to request an oral election was not made. See M.P.E.P. Sec. 812.01.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to San-ming Hui whose telephone number is (703) 305-1002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minna Moezie, J.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4612. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4556 for regular communications and (703) 308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

San-ming Hui
April 4, 2001


MINNA MOEZIE, J.D.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600